

CORAL REEF NEWS

Coral Reef Conservation Program
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NOAA Coral Reef News is a monthly e-newsletter established to provide current information on the activities of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Coral Reef Conservation Program (CRCP) and other relevant NOAA programs. The CRCP supports effective management and sound science to preserve, sustain and restore valuable coral reef ecosystems. Back issues are available at <http://www.coralreef.noaa.gov>.

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OF SPECIAL NOTE

Coral Reef Conservation Amendments Act of 2005 Bill Introduced. On July 15th, Senators Daniel K. Inouye (D-HI) and John E. Sununu (R-NH) introduced S. 1390, the Coral Reef Conservation Amendments Act of 2005. This bill reauthorizes the Coral Reef Conservation Act through FY 2012. The updates made by the legislation include: a new community-based planning grant program; new authority for emergency response actions to prevent destruction from vessel groundings and other physical impacts; and a mandate for an abandoned vessel inventory. In addition, the bill increases the authorized level of funding for the CRCP to \$30 million in FY 2006, ramping up to \$35 million in FY 2012. The Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee made minor amendments and passed this bill to the full Senate on July 21. NOAA is pleased to see bi-partisan support for the CRCP. Download the above legislation at <http://www.coralreef.noaa.gov/>.

NOAA's Coral Reef Watch Releases Automated Coral Bleaching E-mail Alert System. The NOAA Coral Reef Watch (CRW) Satellite Bleaching Alert (SBA) system is now active. The SBA is an automated coral bleaching e-mail alert system designed to monitor the status of thermal stress conducive to coral bleaching via the use of the CRW global satellite near-real time HotSpot products. The SBA was developed by the NOAA CRW satellite team as a tool for coral reef managers, scientists and the interested public. Currently, the alert messages are available for 24 coral reefs around the world. To sign up for bleaching alerts for any or all of these reefs, visit <http://coralreefwatch-satops.noaa.gov/SBA.html>. Reefs may be added or removed from a subscribers list at any time. For more information on the entire suite of NOAA's Coral Reef Watch satellite products,

see <http://coralreefwatch.noaa.gov/satellite/index.html>.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MPA Center to Hold Public Dialogue in Gulf of Mexico Region on National MPA System.

The National Marine Protected Areas Center is developing the framework for a national system of marine protected areas (MPAs), as directed by MPA Executive Order 13158. To ensure that the national system fully represents the nation's interests in the marine environment, the MPA Center is holding a series of public dialogues around the country to solicit and collect input that will be used to develop the system. The most recent public dialogue was held July 18, 2005, in New Orleans, for the Gulf of Mexico region. To learn more, visit www.mpa.gov/national_system.

CRCP to Host Capacity-Building Regional Outreach Workshops. The CRCP is hosting two regional workshops on coral reef outreach, education and stakeholder involvement for staff in the state and territory coral reef jurisdictions and NOAA regional offices. The workshops will focus on information sharing and capacity-building training, with specific topics developed collaboratively by regional participants over the past six months. The Atlantic/Caribbean regional workshop (for Florida, Puerto Rico, USVI, Flower Garden Banks, Grays Reef) will be held in Ft. Lauderdale on September 8-9. The Pacific regional workshop (for American Samoa, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, and Hawai'i) will be held in Honolulu on August 23-24.

Two Positions Available With the Florida Department of Environmental Protection Coral Reef Conservation Program. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) and Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU) announce two regular, full-time, positions in the FDEP Coral Reef Conservation Program based in Miami, Florida. The Awareness & Appreciation Project Coordinator (Requisition Number 0195) and the Land-based Sources of Pollution Project Coordinator (Requisition Number 0194) will provide technical assistance and programmatic support to the FDEP Coral Reef Conservation Program and will coordinate the planning and implementation of local action strategy projects identified in *Southeast Florida Coral Reef Initiative*. For information about the Initiative visit: www.dep.state.fl.us/coastal/programs/coral/. To view the complete position announcements and to apply, visit <http://jobs.fgcu.edu>, click on "Search Postings," and enter either of the above Requisition Numbers in the corresponding search field.

UPDATES

Atlantic

Expedition Investigates Newly Discovered Deepwater Reef. From June 27 – July 1, the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary participated in a research expedition to Pulley Ridge, off southwest Florida, to investigate a recently discovered deepwater coral reef. The cruise was a coordinated effort by the Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies (Texas A&M University Corpus Christi), the National Marine Sanctuary Program (Southeast and Gulf Region) and the State of Florida. The Florida Institute of Oceanography vessel *Suncoaster* deployed a Deepworker submersible and a remotely operated vehicle to study a unique *Agaricia*

coral reef in depths ranging from 200-250 feet. For more information on the results of the expedition, read "[Coral reef expedition yields seafloor surprises](#)," "[Possible new coral found during Gulf scientific trip](#)," and "[Researchers Explore Newly-Discovered Deepest U.S. Reef](#)" in the "Coral Reefs in the News" section below.

"Protecting Corals, Saving Ships" Project Connects With MPA Center and International Council of Cruise Lines. The goal of the CRCP-funded "Protecting Corals, Saving Ships" project is to integrate coral data into navigation systems to protect coral reef habitats from physical destruction and pollution from ships. The project recently established communication with the Marine Protected Area (MPA) Center in Monterey, CA, which is involved in a project to introduce Marine Information Object information into the Coast Pilot volumes. The Center is developing symbology for MPAs and has compiled two documents with direct application to the "Protecting Corals, Saving Ships" project: "Marine Protected Areas – Summary of Restrictions," and "Legal Information." Future collaboration with the MPA Center is planned. Communication was also established with the International Council of Cruise Lines (ICCL), to introduce the project. The ICCL embraced the project, which they viewed as providing additional supplemental information on which to base their navigational decisions.

Pacific

NOAA Ship *HI'IALAKAI* Returns From Successful Mapping Cruise in the Main Hawaiian Islands. The NOAA Pacific Island Fisheries Science Center, Coral Reef Ecosystem Division, recently completed a successful cruise aboard the NOAA ship *HI'IALAKAI*, mapping coral reef ecosystems in the main Hawaiian Islands. The cruise was funded by the CRCP with support provided by the NOAA Office of Ocean Exploration, the

University of Hawai'i's Hawai'i Mapping Research Group, and the National Marine Sanctuaries Program. All shallow waters between the 20 m and 200 m isobaths around the island of Ni'ihau were mapped using a combination of shipboard and launch-based multibeam systems. Around the island of Molokai, shallow waters on the eastern half of Penguin Bank and the north shore were also mapped. A total of 880 km² of shallow water seafloor were surveyed during the cruise. Data were provided to the Hawai'i Division of Aquatic Resources and NOAA Pacific Island Regional Office to facilitate improved management of living marine resources. For information on CRED mapping efforts, visit <http://www.nmfs.hawaii.edu/cred/hmapping/>.

International

Australians Enhance NOAA Coral Reef Efforts – ‘Centre of Excellence’ Created and ‘Linkage’ Funding Received. NOAA was recently accepted as a partner in the Australian Centre of Excellence in Innovative Science for Sustainable Management of Coral Reef Biodiversity, newly established by the Australian Research Council (ARC). NOAA has also been notified that the ARC has awarded a \$1.1M “linkage” grant to the University of Queensland (UQ). NOAA's Coral Reef Watch Program and the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority partner with UQ through in-kind support and Global Environment Facility projects, so this award will further research directly related to NOAA's coral research efforts in Australia. Learn more about the new Australian Centre of Excellence at http://www.arc.gov.au/grant_programs/selectio_n_report05.htm#Appendix_2.

CSCOR Promotes Ecosystem-level Coral Reef Research at Two International Scientific Meetings. The Center for Sponsored Coastal Ocean Research (CSCOR) recently

sponsored dedicated sessions on ecosystem-level coral reef research in back-to-back international scientific meetings. The 2005 Scientific Meeting of the Association of Marine Laboratories of the Caribbean (AMLC) was held June 13-17 in Curacao, Netherlands Antilles. The sponsored session in Curacao showcased the ongoing research of CSCOR-funded programs working in the Southeast Atlantic and the Caribbean Basin. Approximately 130 individuals from countries around the Caribbean participated, with 76 oral presentations in 14 themes. Immediately after the AMLC meeting, CSCOR chaired a special session at the 2005 Summer Meeting of the American Society of Limnology and Oceanography, held June 19-24 in Santiago de Compostela, Spain. The special session emphasized the use of basic research at the ecosystem level to provide information to coral reef resource managers. Fifteen oral presentations and two posters were given by researchers from the United States, Europe, and the Middle East. Participants showed enthusiastic support for both sessions as venues for highlighting the value of their research to management. Learn more about CSCOR's coral reef activities at <http://www.cop.noaa.gov/ecosystems/coralreefs/welcome.html>. See the “Workshops & Meetings” section of the site for specific information on the two scientific meetings discussed above.

National/Headquarters

CRCP Presents at National Marine Educators Conference. For the third consecutive year, the CRCP sent representatives to the National Marine Educators Association (NMEA) annual conference in Maui, HI, July 12-16. The CRCP exhibited along with a host of NOAA offices, and the two representatives gave a talk entitled “Coral Reefs: An Integrative Teaching Tool (and a Guide to NOAA Resources).” The talk

focused on the unique ability of coral reefs ecosystems to capture the imagination of students and clarify environmental science principles, from the basic (food chains) to the complex (human-environment interdependence). Participants received tools and tips for finding NOAA's reef-related educational resources for the K-16 classroom, as well as opportunities for partnering with NOAA and other organizations to create hands-on learning opportunities for students. Visit the CRCP outreach and education page at <http://www.coralreef.noaa.gov/outreach/welcome.html>.

New Coral Reef Education Initiatives for 2006. The CRCP is currently working with two major national curricular and professional development organizations to create national-level coral reef education products for 2006. The CRCP is working with the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) to develop a coral reef teaching guide for high school teachers and students. This "SciGuide" will feature a pedagogical introduction to teaching reefs, along with a comprehensive guide to available lesson plans, educational websites, and other interactive resources. This SciGuide will be one of the first created by NSTA in partnership with a federal agency, and will be the first in a series of NOAA-themed SciGuides. Review of draft materials is underway. The CRCP has also recently begun work to support the National Marine Sanctuary Program and JASON Expeditions on the 2006-2007 JASON curriculum, which will feature coral reef sanctuaries. Both the NSTA and JASON initiatives have significant professional development components aimed at getting the new products into the hands of teachers and students nationwide. Both partnerships have been leveraged at no cost to the CRCP. Learn more about NSTA SciGuides at <http://sciguides.nsta.org/>, and more about JASON at <http://www.jasonproject.org/home.htm>.

CoRIS Web Use More Than Doubles in One Year. Statistics show a substantially growing interest in NOAA's coral reef data and information. The number of visitors to NOAA's Coral Reef Information System (CoRIS) website escalated 115% since May 2004. The amount of downloaded material has also more than doubled in the past year, with a 113% increase since May 2004, including a 54% jump since April 2005. The CoRIS Glossary and Professional Exchanges remain among its more popular pages, for which utilization has risen over 120% in the last year. The CoRIS website is now referenced in over 720 non-NOAA websites world-wide. Visit CoRIS at <http://www.coris.noaa.gov/>.

Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Marine Debris Data are the First of Its Kind in CoRIS. Marine debris data collected by NOAA Fisheries/Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center/Coral Reef Ecosystem Division (CRED) are now documented and accessible through NOAA's Coral Reef Information System (CoRIS) for the first time. CRED marine debris specialists provided metadata for GIS shapefiles of marine debris survey areas and debris locations. Surveys were conducted in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands of Kure Atoll, Maro Reef, Pearl and Hermes Reef, French Frigate Shoals and Midway Atoll. The marine debris data set required new keywords for CoRIS, which now provides access to 947 metadata records that refer to 13,660 products. A sample metadata record can be found at http://www.coris.noaa.gov/metadata/records/html/cred_debris_swim_survey_area_french_french_frigateshoals_2002-2004.html.

Additions to the CoRIS Glossary. Over 360 new scientific and technical terms have been added to the Glossary section of NOAA's Coral Reef Information System (CoRIS). The Glossary, found at <http://www.coris.noaa.gov/glossary/welcome.html>, now defines over 3,300 terms.

CORAL REEFS IN THE NEWS

Articles mentioning NOAA

“Research ship grounded” – July 3, 2005 (*Honolulu Star-Bulletin*). “The Coast Guard is monitoring a research ship, carrying an estimated 30,000 gallons of diesel fuel, that went aground early yesterday in a marine reserve in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands.”
<http://starbulletin.com/2005/07/03/news/index4.html>

“Apparent oil spill under scrutiny” – July 4, 2005 (*Honolulu Star-Bulletin*). “A 500-yard-wide oil sheen spotted yesterday morning near a research vessel that ran aground in a marine reserve on Pearl and Hermes Atoll in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands is causing concern for Coast Guard officials, who are monitoring the situation.”
<http://starbulletin.com/2005/07/04/news/index7.html>

“Ship Runs Aground in Marine Reserve” – July 4, 2005 (*Associated Press in The San Diego Tribune* and approx. 45 other outlets). “HONOLULU -- A ship on a mission to clean out fishing nets and other debris from the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands ran aground in a marine reserve that is home to endangered monk seals, the U.S. Coast Guard said.”
<http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/nation/20050704-0324-shipaground.html>

“Stranded ship's leak appears under control” – July 4, 2005 (*Honolulu Advertiser*). “The Coast Guard yesterday continued to monitor a 145-foot ship that ran aground in a marine reserve in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands, but said an apparent fuel leak around the ship may be under control.”
<http://the.honoluluadvertiser.com/article/2005/Jul/04/ln/ln11p.html>

“Pollution Experts Head to Grounded Ship” – July 5, 2005 (*Associated Press in The Honolulu Advertiser* and approx. 45 other outlets). “The U.S. Coast Guard said yesterday it was sending pollution response experts to cope with any environmental damage to the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands marine reserve after a ship ran aground on an atoll there over the weekend.”
<http://the.honoluluadvertiser.com/article/2005/Jul/05/ln/ln32p.html>

“Grounded Ship Leaking Oil in Northwestern Hawaiian Islands” – July 5, 2005 (*Environmental News Service*). “A motor vessel under contract to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for debris removal in the remote Northwestern Hawaiian Islands, ran aground early Saturday morning, causing severe damage to the ship and spilling oil into a designated marine reserve.”
<http://www.ens-newswire.com/ens/jul2005/2005-07-05-09.asp>

“Mishap lays onus on debris cleanup” – July 5, 2005 (*Honolulu Star-Bulletin*). “No one on the 145-foot Casitas was injured Saturday morning in the grounding at Pearl and Hermes Atoll, about 1,000 miles northwest of Oahu. The cause of the grounding is still under investigation.”
<http://starbulletin.com/2005/07/05/news/story4.html>

“Debris removal vessel strikes reef” – July 5, 2005 (*MarineLog.com*). “The 145 ft motor vessel Casitas, under contract NOAA) for debris removal in the remote Northwestern Hawaiian Islands, ran aground early Saturday morning, causing severe damage to the ship and spilling oil into a designated marine reserve.”
<http://www.marinelog.com/DOCS/NEWSMMV/2005jul0051.html>

“Officials worry about environmental damage in Hawaiian Islands” – July 6, 2005

(Associated Press in North County Times, CA). “The managers of the national wildlife refuge where a debris cleanup ship ran aground say they are very concerned about potential damage to the remote area's treasured reef and ecosystem.”

http://www.nctimes.com/articles/2005/07/07/special_reports/science_technology/20_15_457_6_05.txt

“Ship rescue from atoll begins” – July 6, 2005 (*Honolulu Star-Bulletin*). “Crew members from the grounded ship Casitas were expected back on Oahu today as a team of Coast Guard specialists begins determining how to get the ship off the reef at Pearl and Hermes Atoll.”

<http://starbulletin.com/2005/07/06/news/story14.html>

“Group demands answers about ship's grounding” – July 7, 2005 (*Honolulu Advertiser*). “The environmental group Kahea demanded answers yesterday about the grounding of the work vessel Casitas, which remained aground on the Pearl and Hermes Atoll northern reef yesterday after hitting the coral at 2 a.m. Saturday.”

<http://the.honoluluadvertiser.com/article/2005/Jul/07/ln/507070354.html>

“Seals near wreck site reported free of oil” – July 9, 2005 (*Honolulu Star-Bulletin*). “A grounded ship that has leaked fuel in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands is in prime Hawaiian monk seal habitat, but scientists have not seen any endangered animals with oil on them.”

<http://starbulletin.com/2005/07/09/news/story10.html>

“Preventing oil spills crucial during work to dislodge ship” – July 9, 2005 (*Honolulu Advertiser*). “With up to 200 adult Hawaiian monk seals and 30 to 40 of their pups living in the area, removal of fuel and oil from the

grounded ship Casitas at Pearl and Hermes Atoll in the Northwest Hawaiian Islands will be a delicate operation.”

<http://the.honoluluadvertiser.com/article/2005/Jul/09/ln/507090342.html>

“CRM obtains \$1M grant” – July 10, 2005 (*Saipan Tribune*, CNMI). “The Coastal Resources Management Office received a grant of \$1 million from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration last week to fund CRM's management programs....[R]unoff has been identified as a major source of pollution and is contributing to the destruction of the coral reefs. CRM has several projects ongoing to reduce this, he said.”

<http://www.saipantribune.com/newsstory.aspx?cat=1&newsID=48760>

“Inouye, Sununu Introduce Coral Reef Conservation Bill” – July 13, 2005 (U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation Press Release).

“WASHINGTON, DC – Recognizing the intensifying threats to the nation's coral reefs, U.S. Senators Daniel K. Inouye (D-Hawaii) and John Sununu (R-N.H.) introduced legislation today to boost the resources and damage prevention measures needed to ensure the reefs' long-term health.”

<http://commerce.senate.gov/newsroom/printable.cfm?id=240590>

“NOAA plans to study protection of deep-ocean corals and sponges” – July 15, 2005 (*Associated Press in the San Diego Union Tribune*).

“HONOLULU – The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration says it will study how best to protect the nation's deep-ocean corals and sponges, noting there is scant scientific information on the creatures that live 100 to 2,000 meters below the ocean's surface, or of their habitat.”

<http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/science/20050715-0857-wst-deep-oceancoral.html>

NOAA To Develop National Strategy for Studying, Protecting Deep-sea Corals and Sponges. July 14, 2005 (NOAA Press Release). “NOAA, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, announced plans to develop a comprehensive, national strategy for long-term research and conservation of deep-ocean coral and sponge habitat.”
<http://www.publicaffairs.noaa.gov/releases2005/jul05/noaa05-088.html>

“From the Coast to the Coral Reef Crest: Management of Back Reef Systems” – July 15, 2005 (NOAA Magazine). “While most people have some knowledge of coral reef ecosystems, many may not be aware of back reef systems.”
<http://www.magazine.noaa.gov/stories/mag174.htm>

“Coral study plan called too timid” – July 18, 2005 (Honolulu Star-Bulletin). “The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration announced a plan last week to develop a strategy for the study and protection of the nation's deep-ocean corals and sponges. But the environmental group that submitted the petition that prompted the agency's decision, Washington-based Oceana, said the announcement did not go far enough to save the little-understood marine creatures.”
<http://starbulletin.com/2005/07/18/news/story9.html>

“Tech Divers going to great depths” – July 18, 2005 (Key West Citizen, FL, on MSNBC). “Recently, Key West naturalist diver and Explorers Club fellow Tim Taylor and Mote Marine Laboratory staff scientist Jim Culter led a hand-picked group of highly experienced “tech divers” to serve as scouts and sample collectors on Pulley Ridge, a reef 275 below the ocean surface and more than 150 miles west of Fort Jefferson in the Dry Tortugas.”
<http://msnbc.msn.com/id/8614175/>

“Ship's removal from reef to begin” – July 24, 2005 (Honolulu Advertiser). “Recovery crews hope to rig hull patches and then pump water from a 145-foot ship grounded off the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands as part of a recovery effort to begin this week before refloating the vessel and hauling it off the reef.”
<http://the.honoluluadvertiser.com/article/2005/Jul/24/ln/507240364.html>

“Reef Week focuses on endangered species listing” – July 24, 2005 (Key West Citizen, FL, on MSNBC). “The living coral reef is not only the engine that drives the Key's economy, but it is a primary source of recreation for locals and provides a buffer for the chain of islands from hurricane-driven surf.”
<http://msnbc.msn.com/id/8685852/>

“Scientists target reef-choking seaweed” – July 24, 2005 (Honolulu Advertiser). “An aggressive alien seaweed that has damaged coastal tourism on Maui and choked reefs on several other islands is now spreading on the near-pristine reefs of Mokumanamana – Necker Island – in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands.”
<http://the.honoluluadvertiser.com/article/2005/Jul/25/ln/507250341.html>

“NOAA National Undersea Research Program Launches New Web Site” – July 27, 2005 (NOAA Magazine). “The NOAA Undersea Research Program, which operates the nation's only manned underwater observatory, and supports studies of coral reef health and research into past and present climate change, launched a revamped Web site.”
<http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2005/s2483.htm>

“Global dust-up: Scientists profile vast cloud of dust from Sahara Desert now passing over Caribbean” – July 29, 2005 (The Virgin Islands Daily News). “...While the dust poses

health risks to humans, it may be even more harmful to coral reefs.”

http://www.virginislandsdailynews.com/index.pl/article_home?id=7210909

Other articles

“Coral reef expedition yields sealife surprises” – July 2, 2005 (St. Petersburg Times, FL). “...On Friday, a team of scientists returned from an eight-day expedition to that reef off Florida's Gulf Coast with troves of photos and samples, as well as a few surprises.” http://www.sptimes.com/2005/07/02/Southpine/llas/Coral_reef_expedition.shtml

“Possible new coral found during Gulf scientific trip” – July 2, 2005 (Naples Daily News, FL). “ST. PETERSBURG — Rummaging among coral and algae at the bottom of the Gulf of Mexico, a team of researchers with decades of experience at sea among them found something none had ever seen before: A wispy, bright white coral shaped like a hand that blanketed the sea floor in near darkness more than 250 feet beneath the surface.” http://www.naplesnews.com/npdn/news/article/0,2071,NPDN_14940_3898820,00.html (Free registration required).

“Researchers Explore Newly-Discovered Deepest U.S. Reef” – July 7, 2005 (Newswise Press Release). “A team of researchers from the University of South Florida's College of Marine Science, the Florida Institute of Oceanography, the U.S. Geological Survey, Mote Marine Laboratory and the Harte Institute of Texas A&M University, returned to USF's Bayboro Harbor July 1 after an eight-day reconnaissance mission to Pulley Ridge, a 225 mile long feature extending along the west Florida shelf in approximately 250 feet of water.” <http://www.newswise.com/articles/view/512963/> (Free registration required).

“Arabian Gulf corals alive and regenerating” – July 9, 2005 (AME Info, United Arab Emirates). “When three natural stress events impacted the Arabian Gulf coral reefs in recent years, it was feared these had suffered irreversible damage. This, however, was not the case.”

<http://www.ameinfo.com/63924.html>

“Underwater trail highlights shipwrecks off Miami” – July 10, 2005 (Associated Press in The Tallahassee Democrat, FL, and approx. 6 other outlets). “BISCAYNE NATIONAL PARK - After four decades under the sea, the schooner Mandalay has lost its graceful shape and every fitting that could be pried from its broken hull.”

<http://www.tallahassee.com/mld/tallahassee/12099911.htm>

“Living Reef awards next month” – July 11, 2005 (Pacific Business News). “Hawaii's Living Reef Program, in collaboration with the Coral Reef Outreach Network, is celebrating the first annual Hawaii Living Reef Awards next month.”

<http://pacific.bizjournals.com/pacific/stories/2005/07/04/daily47.html>

“Experts fear worsening crown of thorns problem” – July 11, 2005 (ABC News Online, Australia). “There are new fears that the crown of thorns problem in the Whitsundays, in north Queensland, is starting to spread.”

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/newsitems/200507/s1412102.htm>

“Storm uprights Spiegel Grove: Federal officials to close off site until stability is determined” – July 12, 2005 (Key West Citizen, FL, on MSNBC). “KEY LARGO — Underwater turbulence generated by Hurricane Dennis has uprighted the 510-foot artificial reef known as the Spiegel Grove.”

<http://msnbc.msn.com/id/8548869/>

“Hurricane Dennis fixes botched Florida reef” – July 12, 2005 (*Reuters on CNN and approx. 12 other outlets*). “Mother Nature tidied up a man-made mess off the coast of the Florida Keys when the force of Hurricane Dennis flipped a sunken U.S. Navy ship into the perfect position to help form an artificial reef.”

<http://www.cnn.com/2005/TECH/science/07/12/dennis.shipwreck.reut/>

“Reefs In Danger, Study Warns” – July 13, 2005 (*The Globe and Mail, Canada*).

“VANCOUVER -- Somewhere off British Columbia's West Coast during the summer fishing season, a deep sea trawler dragging heavy bottom gear will cut a swath through a fantastically intricate coral reef or a sponge bed thousands of years old.”

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/ArticleNews/TPStory/LAC/20050713/BCREEFS13/TPEnvironment/> (Free registration required).

“Old vessel launches new career in coral seas: Scientists aboard gear up to study decline of reefs” – July 14, 2005 (*The San Francisco Chronicle*). “The White Holly, which served in World War II as a Navy yard freighter on San Francisco Bay, is beginning a new life -- as an oceanographic research vessel for a scientific expedition that seeks to discover how and why so many of the Earth's coral reefs are dying.” <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?file=/c/a/2005/07/14/MNGR7DNPOS1.DTL>

“Tasmanian coral reef ‘proof of global warming’” – July 17, 2005 (*ABC News Online, Australia*). “...A group of biologists from the Tasmanian Aquaculture and Fisheries Institute has found a shallow reef extensively covered by coral at the Kent Group Marine Protected Area near Flinders Island off the north-east of Tasmania.”

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/newsitems/200507/s1415818.htm>

“Scientists speed coral growth” – July 17, 2005 (*St. Louis Post-Dispatch and approx. 20 other outlets*). “St. Louis sits hundreds of miles from the nearest natural coral, and it's on the other side of the world from the most famous coral reef. Yet the key to saving this crucial oceanic organism just might have sprung from the muddy banks of the Mississippi.”

<http://www.stltoday.com/stltoday/news/stories.nsf/sciencemedicine/story/36FA819273A85D528625704200108034?OpenDocument>

“Program focuses on Honolua” – July 25, 2005 (*The Maui News*). “LAHAINA – A new educational and marine conservation program, Kanaka Malama Kai, for “ocean caretakers,” is being organized by Project S.E.A.-Link to set up a crew of volunteers who will assist in programs to protect ocean resources.” <http://www.mauinews.com/story.aspx?id=10855>

“Awards to recognize reef protection efforts” – July 25, 2005 (*Honolulu Star-Bulletin*). “Organizations, businesses and individuals who take care of Hawaii's coral reefs will be honored Aug. 17 at the Hawaii Living Reef Awards.” <http://starbulletin.com/2005/07/25/news/story9.html>

“Researcher Trying to Breed Tropical Fish” – July 26, 2005 (*The Associated Press in The Washington Post and approx. 35 other outlets*). “BIDDEFORD, Maine -- A University of New England researcher is working to breed a tropical aquarium fish in captivity in an effort to take pressure off fragile ecosystems in Southeast Asia that are being damaged by unsustainable harvesting of exotic fish species.” <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp->

dyn/content/article/2005/07/26/AR2005072600867.html

“In Fiji locals grow ‘live rock’ for aquarium trade with university help” – July 26, 2005 (Georgia Institute of Technology Press Release). “In a unique project that combines environmental conservation, economic development and drug discovery research, scientists and policy experts led by the Georgia Institute of Technology are collaborating with the villagers of Tagaqe and the University of the South Pacific to explore, protect and generate income for islanders from their shallow fringing coral reef.”

<http://news.mongabay.com/2005/0726-geogia-fiji.html>

“Global Pattern of Big Fish Diversity in Open Oceans” – July 28, 2005 (Newswise Press Release). “A new study released in Science reveals a striking downward trend in the diversity of fish in the open ocean. Teasing apart the effects of climate change and fishing over the past 50 years, the authors show a clear link to overfishing and highlight a surprising

global pattern of open ocean hotspots.”

<http://www.newswise.com/articles/view/513469/>

“Marine Lab studies coral spawn” – July 31, 2005 (Guam Pacific Daily News). “University of Guam professor Laurie Raymundo is working on another project that looks at coral's ability to fuse. She said that frequently baby corals with similar parentage land next to each other and end up fusing with each other, which can increase their chances at survival.”

<http://www.guampdn.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20050801/NEWS01/508010303/1002>

“Professor a voyeur when coral spawns” – July 31, 2005 (The News & Observer, NC).

“In a mating ritual that occurs just once a year, the reef corals of Florida and the Caribbean make a little romance in the moonlight in late summer. Typically, it's on an evening in August, all at the same time.”

<http://newsobserver.com/news/story/2646231p-9083227c.html>

UPCOMING EVENTS

If you have events you would like listed in future newsletters please contact coralreef@noaa.gov.

August 2005

13 – 19: **8th International Phycological Congress**. Durban, South Africa. <http://www.ipc8.org.za/>
29 – 31: **White House Conference on Cooperative Conservation**. Invitation only. St. Louis, MO. <http://www.conservation.ceq.gov/>

September 2005

16 – 18: **Marine Aquarium Conference of North America**. Washington, DC. <http://www.macnaxvii.com/>
19 – 23: **Marine Technology Society and IEEE Oceanic Engineering Society Oceans Conference 2005**. Washington, DC. Abstracts due Feb. 15, 2005. <http://www.oceans2005.org/>

October 2005

18 – 19: **Conference on Coral Reef Restoration: Scientific Frameworks for Rehabilitation**. Miami, FL. http://www.tfilearning.com/tfi/c/portal_public/layout?p_1_id=27.26
23 – 28: **The First International Congress on Marine Protected Areas**. Geelong, Australia. www.impacongress.org
31 – Nov. 2: **Sustainable Beaches Conference 2005**. St. Petersburg, FL. <http://www.cleanbeaches.org/events/summit/2005/>

November 2005

4 – 7: **14th U.S. Coral Reef Task Force Meeting**. Palau. <http://www.coralreef.gov/meetings/announcements.html>
28 – Dec. 2: **Third International Symposium on Deep-Sea Corals**. Miami, FL. <http://www.conference.ifas.ufl.edu/coral>

March 2006

6 – 10: **World Maritime Technology Conference**. London, England. Note Technical Programme on Reefs of the World. <http://www.wmtc2006.com/technical/rw/>

April 2006

19 – 21: **First International Symposium on Mangroves as Fish Habitat**. Miami, FL. <http://www.rsmas.miami.edu/conference/mangrove-fish-habitat/>

Questions, comments?

Contact coralreef@noaa.gov, NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Program.

Access to NOAA's coral reef data and information is provided through NOAA's Coral Reef Information System at <http://www.coris.noaa.gov>. Current news on NOAA's coral reef activities can be found on the NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Program Web site, <http://www.coralreef.noaa.gov>.

